

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1                   1.       (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method ~~performed by a~~  
2 ~~computer system~~ of committing a transaction to a database, the method comprising:  
3                   receiving, at a computer system hosting a database management system that  
4 manages the database, information defining an application event that, upon occurrence, causes  
5 the database management system to intercept database transactions instantiated between database  
6 applications and the database management system and generate from data identified in the  
7 database transaction an electronic record that requires an electronic signature;  
8                   receiving, at the computer system, information defining one or more fields for the  
9 data identified in the database transaction to be stored in the electronic record;  
10                  receiving, at the computer system, information that maps data from underlying  
11 database tables associated with the database transaction to at least some of the one or more  
12 fields;  
13                  detecting, at the computer system, a database transaction between a[[n]] database  
14 application and the database management system at the computer system;  
15                  intercepting transaction data from the database transaction with the computer  
16 system prior to the database management system committing the database transaction ~~being~~  
17 ~~committed~~ to the database based on [[an]] the application event monitored by the computer  
18 system that is triggered by the database transaction;  
19                  automatically creating an electronic record at the computer system from the  
20 intercepted transaction data prior to the database management system committing the database  
21 transaction to the database according to a mapping between the data from underlying database  
22 tables associated with the database transaction to the at least some of the one or more fields;

23                   executing a rule associated with the application event at the computer system to  
24                   determine whether an electronic signature is required to connote review of the electronic record  
25                   created from the intercepted transaction data in order for the database management system to  
26                   commit the database transaction to the database;

27                   requesting the electronic signature using the computer system prior to the  
28                   database management system committing the database transaction to the database based on a  
29                   determination that an electronic signature is required; and

30                   committing the database transaction to the database using the computer system in  
31                   response to receiving the electronic signature.

1                   2.       (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record comprises  
2                   data generated from multiple tables of the database.

1                   3.       (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic record is stored  
2                   in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or  
3                   disabled by users of the database.

1                   4.       (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic  
2                   record is stored as data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

1                   5.       (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the data comprises  
2                   a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a database table.

1                   6.       (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein XML fields of the  
2                   data are filled with the transaction data based on a predefined mapping of a data type definition  
3                   to multiple data sources.

1                   7.       (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further displaying at least  
2                   some of the transaction data in the electronic record on a computer display based on the  
3                   determination that an electronic signature is required.

1                   8.       (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the transaction  
2 data in the electronic record is displayed according to a predefined layout set forth in an XSL  
3 style sheet associated with data comprising a copy of the electronic record as displayed, wherein  
4 the data is stored within a column of a database table.

1                   9.       (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising  
2 obtaining and verifying the electronic signature.

1                   10.      (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the rule requires a plurality of  
2 different electronic signatures and wherein, if execution of the rule results in a determination that  
3 a plurality of electronic signatures are required, requesting the plurality of electronic signatures  
4 prior to committing the data to the database.

1                   11.      (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein, if the electronic  
2 signature is rejected or otherwise cannot be obtained, the database transaction is rolled-back and  
3 not committed to the database.

1                   12.      (Currently amended) A computer system that manages electronic records  
2 stored in a database, the computer system comprising:  
3                   a processor; and  
4                   a database; and  
5                   a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer-readable  
6 memory configured to stor[[e]]ing a set of instructions executable by computer program; wherein  
7 the processor is operative with the computer program to:  
8                   receive information defining an application event that, upon occurrence,  
9                   causes the processor to intercept database transactions instantiated between database applications  
10                  and a database management system associated with a database and generate an electronic record  
11                  that requires an electronic signature from data identified in the database transaction;  
12                  receive information defining one or more fields for the data identified in  
13                  the database transaction to be stored in the electronic record;

14                                receive information that maps data from underlying database tables  
15   associated with the database transaction to at least some of the one or more fields;  
16                                detect a database transaction between a[[n]] database application and the  
17   database management system;  
18                                intercept transaction data from the database transaction initiated between  
19   the database application and the database management system prior to the database management  
20   system committing the database transaction to the database based on [[an]] the application event  
21   monitored by the processor that is triggered by the database transaction;  
22                                create an electronic record from the intercepted transaction data prior to  
23   the database management system committing the database transaction to the database according  
24   to a mapping between the data from underlying database tables associated with the database  
25   transaction to the at least some of the one or more fields;  
26                                execute a rule associated with the application event to determine whether  
27   an electronic signature is required to connote review of the electronic record created from the  
28   intercepted transaction data in order for the database management system to commit the database  
29   transaction to the database; and  
30                                request the electronic signature prior to the database management system  
31   committing the database transaction to the database based on a determination that an electronic  
32   signature is required; and  
33                                commit the database transaction to the database in response to receiving  
34   the electronic signature.

1                                13.    (Original) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the electronic record  
2   comprises data generated from multiple tables of the database.

1                                14.    (Original) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the electronic record  
2   is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be  
3   altered or disabled by users of the system.

1                   15.     (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the  
2     electronic record comprises data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

1                   16.     (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the data  
2     comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the  
3     database.

1                   17.     (Original) The computer system of claim 16 wherein fields of the  
2     electronic record are filled with the transaction data based on a predefined mapping of a data  
3     type definition to multiple data sources.

1                   18.     (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 12 wherein the  
2     processor is further operative with the computer program to obtain and verify the electronic  
3     signature.

1                   19.     (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium configured to  
2     store computer-executable code for managing electronic records stored in a database, the  
3     computer-readable storage medium comprising:

4                   code for receiving information defining an application event that, upon  
5     occurrence, causes database transactions instantiated between database applications and a  
6     database management system associated with the database to be intercepted and an electronic  
7     record that requires an electronic signature to be generated from data identified in the database  
8     transaction;

9                   code for receiving information defining one or more fields for the data identified  
10    in the database transaction to be stored in the electronic record;

11                  code for receiving information that maps data from underlying database tables  
12    associated with the database transaction to at least some of the one or more fields;

13                  code for detecting a database transaction between a[[n]] database application and  
14    the database management system;

code for monitoring for [[an]] the application event that is triggered by the database transaction;

code for intercepting transaction data from the database transaction prior to the database management system committing the transaction ~~being committed~~ to the database based on the application event that is triggered by the database transaction;

code for creating an electronic record from the intercepted transaction data prior to the database management system committing the database transaction to the database;

code for executing a rule associated with the event to determine whether an electronic signature is required to connote review of the electronic record created from the intercepted database transaction in order for the database management system to commit the database transaction to the database; and

code for requesting the electronic signature prior to the database management system committing the database transaction to the database based on a determination that that an electronic signature is required; and

code for committing the database transaction to the database in response to receiving the electronic signature.

20. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19 wherein the code for creating an electronic record further comprises code for creating electronic records in response to the occurrence of a predefined event.

21. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19 wherein the electronic record is stored in a common repository of electronic records that provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or disabled by users of the system.

22. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the electronic record comprises data in a character large object (CLOB) format.

23. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein the data comprises a well-formed XML document stored within a column of a table stored in the database.

24. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 23 wherein fields of the electronic record are filled with the transaction data based on a predefined mapping of a DTD to multiple data sources.

25. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19 further comprising code for obtaining and verifying the electronic signature.

26. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of committing a transaction to a database, the method comprising:

receiving, at a computer system hosting a database management system that manages the database, a user-specified application event that, upon occurrence, causes the database management system to intercept database transactions instantiated between database applications and the database management system and generate from data identified in the database transaction an electronic record that requires an electronic signature;

receiving, at the computer system, information defining one or more fields for the data identified in the database transaction to be stored in the electronic record;

receiving, at the computer system, information that maps data from underlying database tables associated with the database transaction to at least some of the one or more fields;

intercepting transaction data at a computer system from a database transaction initiated between a [[n]] database application and the database management system in response to [[a]] the user-created event monitored by the computer system that is triggered by the database transaction;

automatically creating an electronic record with the computer system prior to the database management system committing the associated database transaction to the database,

19 wherein the electronic record comprises the intercepted transaction data prepared by the  
20 computer system using a set of XML mappings ~~associated~~ associated with the user-created-event  
21 as a well-formed XML document in a character large-object (CLOB) format of a column of a  
22 database table;

23 storing the electronic record in a common repository of electronic records that  
24 provides an audit trail that cannot be altered or deleted by users of the system;

25 executing a rule associated with the event to determine whether an electronic  
26 signature is required to connote review of the electronic record in order for the database  
27 management system to commit the database transaction to the database;

28 if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is  
29 required, (i) displaying the transaction data in the electronic record according to a predefined  
30 layout set forth in an XSL style sheet associated with the electronic record and storing a copy of  
31 the transaction data as displayed in a character large-object (CLOB) format of a second column  
32 of the database table and (ii) requesting, obtaining and verifying the electronic signature prior to  
33 the database management system committing the transaction into a database; and

34 committing the transaction to the database in response to verifying the electronic  
35 signature.